

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01094 181353 Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9004

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1094

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EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, MOPS, CA, ZA

SUBJ: MAY 15 BORDER SHOOTING INCIDENT

1. CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER BROADBRIDGE REQUESTS FOLLOWING MESSAGE BE PASSED EXTAFF ASAP.

2. EXTERNAL OTT (PDM GAA), OUR TEL 511 JUNE 15, DEATH OF CDN.

3. IT WAS MY VIEW THAT SINCE DRIJBER HAD REFUSED PRESIDENT' S OFFER AND MADE FURTHER DEMANDS THAT MATTER WOULD BE CLOSED. HOWEVER ON SAT MORNING I RECEIVED A CALL FROM MARK CHONA WHO SAID THAT DESPITE EVERYTHING THEY WERE PREPARED FOR DRIJBER TO COME TO ZAMBIA AND THAT HE COULD COME BY WAY OF VICTORIA FALLS IF HE SO WISHED. HE SAID THAT ZAMBIAN GOVT HAD NOTHING TO HIDE AND WERE PREPARED TO LET HIM SEE WHOM HE WANTED. I POINTED OUT THAT I THOUGHT THAT PRES HAD MADE A VERY GENEROUS OFFER AND ITS REFUSAL WAS A DISCOURTESY. CHONA REPLIED THAT THIS DID NOT/ NOT MATTER, THAT THEY FELT THAT HE SHOULD COME. WE DISCUSSED THIS FOR ALMOST 20 MINS AND IT WAS CLEAR TO ME THAT ZAMBIANS HAD MADE THEIR MINDS UP.

4. I POINTED OUT TO MARK CHONA THAT CDN GOVT WAS NOT/ NOT MAKING REQUEST AND I HOPED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS WAS A
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PERSONAL REQUEST ON PART OF DRIJBER. CHONA SAID HE COMPLETELY UNDERSTOOD SITUATION. HE ASKED ME THEREFORE IF I WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EMB IN CPTWN AND HAVE THEM TALK TO DRIJBER AND EXPLAIN TO HIM THAT CONDITIONS HE HAD MADE WOULD BE MET. I ACCORDINGLY GOT HOLD OF CAMPBELL AND TRANSMITTED MSG.

5. ON SUN I HAD ANOTHER CALL FROM CHONA WHO WAS A BIT DISTURBED, AND RIGHTLY SO, BECAUSE DRIJBER HAD MADE SOME OFFHAND REMARKS TO SAFRICAN PRESS CONCERNING FIRST OFFER TO PRES TO RECEIVE HIM. HE INDICATED THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE TO RECONSIDER THEIR POSITION. I SAID THAT REACTION WAS FULLY UNDERSTANDABLE AND I WAS PREPARED TO GET HOLD OF CPTWN RIGHT AWAY AND STATE THAT BECAUSE OF PRESS INTERVIEW GIVEN BY DRIJBER VISIT WAS NOT/ NOT WELCOME. IT TURNED OUT HOWEVER THAT THEY HAD NOT/ NOT CHANGED THEIR MIND. INSTEAD CHONA ASKED ME TO GET IN TOUCH WITH CPTWN AGAIN AND FIND OUT WHAT DRIJBER'S REACTION WAS TO LATEST PROPOSAL, BUT WAS PARTICULARLY KEEN THAT HE SHOULD ACCEPT THEIR OFFER OF TRANSPORTATION ON THIS VISIT. THEY DID NOT/ NOT THINK IT WAS PROPER THAT HE SHOULD EXPECT SAFE CONDUCT WITHOUT ZAMBIAN OFFICIALS BEING IN CHARGE. ON MY CALL TO CPTWN I WAS TOLD BY BONTHRON THAT HE HAD MADE CONTACT WITH DRIJBER AND THIS TIME DRIJBER HAD GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED OFFER MADE BY ZAMBIAN GOVT. HE TOLD BONTHRON HE APPRECIATED OFFER OF TRANSPORTATION AND HE WOULD ACCORDINGLY BE PROCEEDING TO VICTORIA FALLS TODAY AND SUGGESTED THAT HE CROSS VICTORIA BRIDGE AT 8 TOMORROW MORNING. I RELATED THIS TO CHONA AND HE SAID THAT THIS WAS ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY AND THAT HE WOULD MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE HIM MET AND BROUGHT TO LUSAKA BY AIR.

6. I MENTIONED TO CHONA THAT APPARENTLY DRIJBER HAD SAID TO BONTHRON THAT HE HOPED THAT LEITH MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACCOMPANY HIM ON CALLS. ON THIS POINT CHONA SAID THAT AS FAR AS PRES WAS CONCERNED THAT IF ANYBODY ACCOMPANIED DRIJBER FROM A PROTOCOL POINT OF VIEW IT WOULD HAVE TO BE ME. I AM PROPOSING TO PLAY THIS NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS BY EAR AND WILL DO BEST WE CAN.
BROADBRIDGE
WILKOWSKI

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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